This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (canceled):

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:~~ A method of decoding encoded image data comprising the steps of:

operating a decoder circuit implemented in hardware to perform at least one non-memory intensive image decoding operation to generate, from the encoded image data, a first set of processed image data, the at least one non-memory intensive image decoding operation being a variable length decoding operation;

supplying the first set of processed image data generated by the decoder circuit to a programmable processor; and

operating the programmable processor to perform at least one additional image decoding operation using the first set of processed image data;

wherein the step of operating the decoder circuit, includes the step of performing at least two additional operations from the group of operations consisting of an inverse scan conversion operation, an inverse quantization operation, an inverse discrete cosine transform operation, and a data reduction operation, the two additional operations being different from said at least one non-memory intensive operation;

wherein the programmable processor is coupled to a graphics processor, the method further comprising the steps of:

operating the graphics processor to perform a motion compensated prediction operation using data included in the first set of processed data; and

storing in the decoder circuit multiple sets of context information for different video streams at the same time, each set of stored context information corresponding to a different one of a plurality of encoded video data streams processed by the decoder circuit each set of context information including vertical size, horizontal size and frame rate information.

Claims 11-30 (canceled):